

I regard Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election as a shameless assault on the nation's public airwaves. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public broadcasting system free of charge, and is obligated by law to truly serve the public interest, not dictate what it thinks that interest should be. Sinclair's decision exposes this Corporation's right wing political agenda, and is a thinly disguised attempt to sway the results of the 2004 election. When right wing corporations feel emboldened enough to use the public airwaves to spread lies and distortions dressed up as "news," then this country is in real trouble. It shows an outrageous contempt for the public trust those working in the media are supposed to uphold. It is time for the American people to be better served. We need less concern for the profit margins and corporate political agendas of large companies such as Sinclair, and more of what serves democracy, which is increasingly under attack in this country. Democracy can survive only when unbiased information is disseminated freely and with integrity. Large corporations with private political and "for profit" motives will not choose to do this.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.